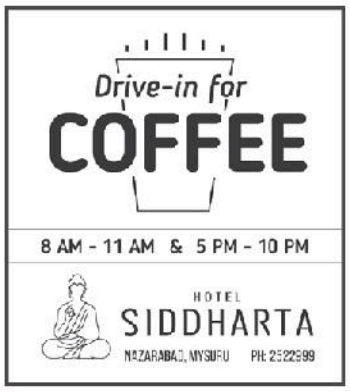

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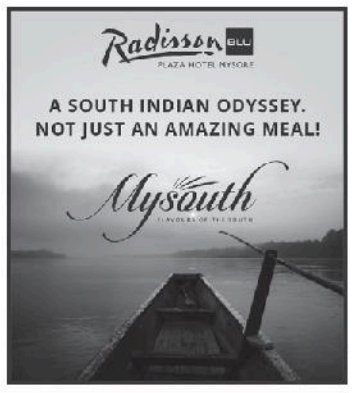

Fall in Lane

Police urge KSRTC to check traffic congestion caused by buses

Mysuru, Mar. 19 (MTY&BCT)- To tackle traffic congestion in Mysuru, the City Traffic Police held a meeting with officials from the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC), seeking their cooperation.

The meeting took place at the office of KSRTC Rural Divisional Controller at Bannimantap. Traffic ACP M. Shivashankar, along with senior KSRTC officials, participated in the discussion. They urged KSRTC bus drivers and conductors to strictly adhere to traffic regulations and support the Police in easing congestion.

Police highlighted that they have received several public complaints regarding KSRTC buses flouting traffic rules. He pointed out that buses frequently fail to stop at designated stops or lane, instead halting on busy roads to issue tickets, further worsening traffic congestion. He raised concerns over bus drivers not wearing uniforms or seat belts and some buses emitting thick smoke, adding to air pollution.

Strictly follow rules: The ACP emphasised the need for regular inspections of buses and urged KSRTC staff to follow key regulations, including no honking near hospitals, avoiding high-speed driving in urban areas and stopping only at designated bus stops.

During emergencies such as riots, processions, protests or strikes, the Police stressed that KSRTC staff must strictly follow traffic instructions. They warned that arguments with Police officials during such events could lead to further traffic chaos.

(See TRAFFIC on page 7)

MUDA case against CM

Special Court asks Lokayukta to clarify discrepancies in report

CM Siddaramaiah

MUDA Office building

Mysuru, Mar. 19 (BLU&DM)- Over a month after the Karnataka High Court rejected a plea to transfer Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) case against Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to the CBI, Special Court for MPs and MLAs in Bengaluru has sought clarification from Lokayukta Investigation Officer T.J. Udesh on certain points.

The case, filed by Mysuru-based RTI activist Snehamayi Krishna, accuses Siddaramaiah's wife of illegally obtaining 14 sites from MUDA in exchange for land at Kesare under the 50:50 alternative site allotment scheme. Following a directive from the Court, the Lokayukta Police investigated the case and submitted a report.

During the hearing on Tuesday, Special Court Judge Santosh Gajanana Bhat instructed the Lokayukta Police to address specific issues raised by the Court. The next hearing is scheduled for Mar. 24.

Krishna, who argued the case himself, highlighted what he claimed were discrepancies in Lokayukta's report. He pointed out that while Column 14 of the report stated that all four accused (Accused No. 1 to 4) had committed no wrongdoing, Column 17 noted that MUDA incurred losses due to the then-MUDA Commissioner sanctioning sites under 50:50 scheme.

Krishna argued that the mention of financial loss indicated a scam, making it evident that the accused were culpable.

After hearing the arguments, Judge Bhat directed the Lokayukta Police to clarify the conflicting findings. Lokayukta Special Public Prosecutor Venkatesh S. Arbatti represented the Lokayukta in the case.

Indian origin astronaut Sunita Williams returns to Earth after 286 days in space

Looking forward to seeing you in India: PM Modi writes to Sunita

Chennai, Mar. 19 (UNI)- The National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA)'s SpaceX Crew-9, comprising India-born Woman Astronaut Sunita Williams and three others, completed the agency's ninth commercial crew rotation mission to the International Space Station (ISS), splashing down safely in a SpaceX Dragon spacecraft off the coast of Tallahassee, Florida, in the Gulf of America on early this morning at 3.27 am (IST).

Astronaut Sunita Williams emerges from the SpaceX Dragon capsule after a successful splashdown.

In a press release on its website, NASA said its astronauts Nick Hague, Sunita Williams, Butch Wilmore, and Roscosmos cosmonaut Aleksandr Gorbunov, returned to Earth at 5.57 pm EDT. Teams aboard SpaceX recovery vessels retrieved spacecraft and its crew.

Upon returning to shore, the crew will fly to NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston and reunite with their families. "We are thrilled to have Suni, Butch, Nick and Aleksandr home after their months-long mission conducting vital science, technology demonstrations and maintenance aboard the ISS," said.

(See ASTRONAUT on page 7)

STAR OF MYSORE

"We believe comment is free, but facts are sacred."

Editor: M. GOVINDE GOWDA, M.A.

Mysuru, Wednesday 19th March 2025

Book release on Mar. 26

Mysuru, Mar. 19- 'Agasthya Darshana,' a book co-authored by Dr. M.N. Sudha and O. Sham Bhat will be released on Mar. 26.

The book release programme, organised under the joint aegis of Mysuru's Sri Bramharshi Agasthya Lopamudra Jnanapeetha and Bengaluru's Ayodhya Publications, will be held at JSS College of Arts, Science and Commerce on Ooty Road in the city at 6.15 pm.

Suttur Mutt Seer Sri Shivarathri Deshikendra Swamiji, Avadhoota Datta Peetham Junior Pontiff Sri Datta Vijayananda Theertha Swamiji and Mata Amritanandamayi Mutt's Brahmachari Prasadamrutha Chaitanya will grace the occasion.

Star of Mysore and *Mysuru Mithra* Founder-Editor Dr. K.B. Ganapathy and Mythic Society President V. Nagaraj will be the chief guests.

EDITOR'S BOTTOMLINE

FACE THE REALITY AND SEE WHERE WE STAND: ***The function of a spiritual teacher, as has been taught by my Master, is not to distribute lollipops. Everybody sucks on the lollipops and sits happily, thinking this is the world. One has to face reality, look at life, see where we stand, whether we have improved; are we moving forward, or are we still the same?***

A Guru should be a polished mirror so that when you look at it, you see your actual reflection, not a distorted image. Only when you see yourself as you are, can you change. When one does not see one's real picture, one actually thinks that one is fine.

A true spiritual teacher sometimes provides opportunities and situations, either deliberately or as they happen. He does not encourage people to run away from them, but to remain in those situations, and face them. For it is only when one is faced with a particular set of circumstances, that one begins to realise for oneself where one stands.

So the most important thing in sadhana is to look at oneself very carefully. Are you still unhappy when somebody else is happy? Are you scheming to pull somebody down?

If you have found that there are a lot of things to be improved in yourself, the first step is sitting down and doing your sadhana and the other is to see how you behave with people. Both are sadhana and they have to go side by side.

If we remain the same, years of meditation, japa, kriya or bhajans are of no use, unless the heart changes and begins to look outside oneself.

People usually think that spiritual realisation is something that can be won for free. That spiritual realisation comes without exchange, is not true. He who giveth, receiveth. I am not saying that we must give everything that we have, but to sacrifice some part of yourself. Try to help others.

In this world it is not possible to sort all your problems. If you don't have money, you may have something else. If you have money, you may not have something else. This is the way of the world. If you get a big job you will find many jealous people looking at you. If you make money you will see people trying to figure out how to take it away. It is natural.

So, if you have to get out of this finally, once and for all, the only way is to find your own self. To find your own self, means to examine yourself, look at life as it is and try and become as selfless as possible.

—Sri M in Deccan Herald

NEWS SPARKLERS

Parade of 897 wiener dogs breaks world record

Regensburg: A German city broke a Guinness World Record when it hosted a parade that featured some 900 dachshunds or more.

Regensburg, home of the dachshund-themed Dackelmuseum, hosted the world's largest dachshund dog walk when the Dackelparade featured at least 897 wiener dogs walking with their owners.

Seppi Küblbeck, who founded the Dackelmuseum with her husband Oliver Storz, said, the parade was aimed at bringing some positive energy to the community. Some counts indicated the number may have been as high as 1,175, but Guinness World Records could only confirm 897.

Live alligator left behind in motel room

Michigan: Police near the northern tip of Michigan's lower peninsula were called to a motel to help secure an unusual piece of left-behind property: a live alligator.

The Cheboygan Police Department said officers were called to a Pine Rivers motel room when housekeeping staff found a live alligator in a recently-vacated room.

Police determined the 3-foot alligator, named Wally, belonged to a man who owns multiple exotic animals and takes them to elementary schools for demonstrations.

The owner was contacted and told Police he knew Wally was missing, but didn't realize he had been left at the motel. "He thought it got out. He looked for him, couldn't find it," motel's manager Gary said.

Wally was reunited with his owner recently.

HEALTH CAPSULE

Myth: Urinary Incontinence happens to everyone with age

Fact: Urinary leakage is not an inevitable part of aging. Even if it happens, it can be controlled or cured

By Dr. THIMMAIAH K. A. - Consultant – Urology
Manipal Hospital, Mysore

manipalhospitals
LIFE'S ON

** Health Capsule is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature*

Postal Life Insurance premium revival drive till Mar. 31

Mysuru, Mar.19- In order to encourage its insurance policy holders, the Department of Posts has organised a special campaign for revival of discontinued polices till Mar. 31.

During the campaign, the Postal Life Insurance (PLI) and Rural Postal Life Insurance (RPLI), which have lapsed due to discontinuance of policy premiums payment, can be revived by payment of accrued premiums at a discounted rate. However, this discount is applicable only to defaulting policy holders who pay the balance premium amount in one go.

The defaulting postal life insurance policy holders can visit their nearest Post Office and avail the benefits of the campaign, according to G. Harish, Senior Superintendent of Posts, Mysuru Postal Division.

भारतीय डाक
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WATER LEVEL

KRS DAM	KABINI DAM	HARANGI DAM
Maximum **124.80 feet**	Maximum **2,284 feet**	Maximum **2,859 feet**
Today's level **108.85 feet**	Today's level **2,271.02 feet**	Today's level **2,834.54 feet**
Last year's level **87.45 feet**	Last year's level **2,267.17 feet**	Last year's level **2,829.66 feet**
Yesterday's level **109.22 feet**	Yesterday's level **2,271.18 feet**	Yesterday's level **2,834.58 feet**
Today's Inflow **146 cusecs**	Today's Inflow **173 cusecs**	Today's Inflow **84 cusecs**
Today's Outflow **4,200 cusecs**	Today's Outflow **1,000 cusecs**	Today's Outflow **100 cusecs**

REALLY...?

- *Ducks can live from 2 – 20 years. Wild ducks live longer than domestic ducks.*
- *The scientific name of a mallard duck is Anas platyrhynchos.*
- *Ducks are birds. They are related to Geese and Swans.*
- *Ducks have been domesticated as pets and farm animals for more than 500 years.*
- *Not all ducks are yellow, and not all ducks quack. All ducks have highly waterproof feathers.*
- *A male duck typically has a green head, white neckband and greyish body.*
- *A female duck is typically brownish in colour. In general, male ducks are more colourful than females.*

LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE

Mother: *Have you washed your hands, Johny?*

Johny: *Yes, and if you don't believe me, look at the towel!*

TODAY'S CURRENCY RATE

1 US Dollar	= **Rs. 86.51**
1 UK Pound	= **Rs. 112.33**
1 UAE Dirham	= **Rs. 23.55**
1 Euro	= **Rs. 94.55**

VOICE OF THE READER

Irregular water supply
at Ramakrishnanagar I Block

Sir,

I have been a resident of Ramakrishnanagar I Block (Ward No. 46) for five years. For the past year, we have been facing frequent water shortages due to issues such as pump failures or supply line punctures.

Each time, the problem persists for four to five days, making it extremely difficult for residents to manage their daily water needs, especially office-goers and students.

Moreover, the authorities fail to inform residents about these disruptions in a timely manner.

Vani Vilas Water Works or the Mysuru City Corporation should arrange water tankers at a reasonable price whenever such shortages occur. It is disheartening to see residents arguing with tanker drivers due to the lack of support from officials.

This issue requires urgent attention and immediate action.

— **Ashok Kumar**

Mysuru
13.3.2025

'Evaluation and Benchmarking of AI Applications in Indian Languages'

Mysuru, Mar. 19- The Linguistic Data Consortium for Indian Languages (LDC-IL), a scheme of the Ministry of Education implemented at the Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysuru, is organising a National Conference on "Evaluation and Benchmarking of Publicly Available Artificial Intelligence Applications that support Indian Languages' on Mar. 20 and 21 at CIIL premises in city. The inaugural session begins at 10 am.

The area of Artificial Intelligence (AI) is currently the most happening in the technology sector. Intelligence is mostly defined as the ability to communicate in a language. India is home to so many languages, so it is imperative that the technology is on par in all of them.

The two-day Conference aims to discuss topics related to the evaluation and efficacy of such applications when it comes to Indian languages and brainstorm the issues and challenges in making it better and provide support to all Indian languages.

There will be 25 speakers from across the country, drawn from top-notch academic institutions as well as big players in the industry including representatives from ChatGPT, OpenAI, Ola Krutrim, Bhashini and BharatGen. The paper presenters will deliberate on the major challenges facing Indian languages and how Indian languages can do better on AI-front.

The conference will see the release of new language data sets developed at LDC-IL.

CIIL will also release some multilingual AI and non-AI language tools that would be publicly available. The web-based tools include *Anuvadika*, a translation engine focused on Indian languages equipped with ASR and TTS modules.

Anuvachika, a Text-to-Speech engine that can be used to readily download speech for any given text in supported Indian languages. *Anulekhika*, an ASR tool where one speaks and writes or gets a transcription of the uploaded audio files. *Lipyantara*, a transliteration engine that supports on-the-fly transliteration of text from one Indian script to another Indian script.

Women's Day by Rotary Midtown

Amrit Rakesh and Sushma, who were felicitated by Rotary Midtown, seen with** (standing from left) **Rtn. Padmaja, Rtn. Sunanda, Club President Rtn. Kumaraswamy, Joint Secretary Rtn. Jaykumar, Rtn. Nagaraj, Rtn. Chytra and Rtn. Apoorvi.

Mysuru, Mar. 19- Rotary Mysore Midtown celebrated International Women's Day at Chiguru Ashram, a shelter for destitute and mentally ill women in Koorgalli, Mysuru, recently.

The Ashram is providing shelter to over 40 women and taking care of their daily needs.

As part of its service activities, Rotary Midtown had earlier extended support to the Ashram by building an event hall and a resting place. Chiguru Ashram is a collaborative venture of Janaseva Trust founded by Sushma Ravi.

On the occasion, Rotary Midtown honoured Sushma for her dedicated service towards humanity and Amrit Rakesh, an international-fame yoga teacher, for her contribution towards the aged and the downtrodden.

Rotary Midtown also recognised five lady members for their contributions to society.

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No. SH/Stores/Swaraj Mazda/Auction/2024 – 25 Date: 14.03.2025
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Swaraj Mazda Bus (ELV) will be disposed off through **Public Auction on 25.03.2025 at (11 am)** at this Institute. Interested parties can participate in the auction on payment of EMD amount of ₹14,000/- on the spot before 10 AM along with RVSFs certificate copy.
In case the successful bidders do not show their interest in lifting the goods by making the balance payment immediately, the bid security deposit will be forfeited and auction will be initiated to re-auction and the item in question will be at the risk and cost of the defaulter.
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INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY SPECIAL...

Making every sample count

By M.T. Yogesh Kumar

On International Women's Day-2025, we celebrate the dedication of women whose tireless service in clinical laboratories makes a lasting impact. As the call for gender equality grows stronger, women continue to shatter barriers, excelling alongside men in every field. The realm of medical services is no exception, with women playing a pivotal role — especially in clinical laboratory services, where precision and dedication save lives.

B. Latha, a Laboratory Technical Officer at the Primary Health Centre (PHC) in J.P. Nagar, Mysuru, stands as a shining example of this commitment.

She is part of a growing force of women in Government service, delivering quality healthcare without seeking recognition. Known for her accessibility and compassion, she has earned the trust of patients who rely on her for timely blood tests and clinical reports.

Her unwavering dedication ensures that every sample counts, delivering precise and timely reports that strengthen Mysuru city's public health system. Latha's story stands as an inspiring testament to the countless women breaking barriers in healthcare — proving that dedication, compassion, expertise and accuracy know no gender.

COVID Warrior

Speaking to *Star of Mysore* on the occasion of International Women's Day, Latha recalled her journey into clinical service. Armed with a Diploma in Medical Laboratory Technology, she began her career as a Lab Technician in 2015. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Latha rendered selfless service at the COVID Care Centres in Udayagiri and Vishweshwaranagar. "My only purpose was to serve patients, which eventually led to a rise in the number of people visiting our laboratory," she said.

Latha believes that women are proving their mettle across all sectors, working on par with men and shouldering responsibilities with equal efficiency.

She highlighted the critical role played by women lab technicians during the pandemic, who were at the forefront of testing swab samples — a crucial task in detecting the virus. Their contribution, she said, underscores the significance of laboratory professionals in the healthcare system.

Reflecting on her decade-long career, Latha expressed a deep sense of satisfaction. "Working in a laboratory is no easy task, but this is my profession, and I take pride in it," she said. A native of Shivamogga, she has built a fulfilling career in Mysuru with the support of the Medical Officer and staff at the PHC.

B. Latha, Lab Technical Officer at the Primary Health Centre (PHC) in J.P. Nagar.

Nightingale Pledge to Govt. Nursing College students

Mysuru, Mar. 19 (RK&BS)- The new batch of B.Sc. Nursing students of Government Nursing College, Mysore Medical College and Research Institute (MMC&RI), were administered the Nightingale Pledge, a formal oath emphasising ethical practice and patient welfare, by Assistant Professor N. Jyothi at the oath-taking ceremony held at Platinum Jubilee Hall, J.K. Grounds in city recently.

MMC & RI Dean and Director Dr. K.R. Dakshayani, who presided, said the College is equipped with clinical material facilities that should be judiciously used by the students and prepare themselves to provide quality service to people.

Principal of Government Nursing College Dr. Nandaprakash, Principal of MMC&RI Dr. K. Satish, Chief Administrative Officer C.R. Kalpashree, Financial Advisor N. Nuthanasree, Medical Superintendent of K.R. Hospital Dr. H.P. Shobha, Medical Superintendent of Cheluvamba Hospital Dr. R. Sudha, Dr. C. Prashanth of PKTB Sanatorium, Resident Medical Officer of K.R. Hospital Dr. Nayaz Pasha, Cheluvamba Hospital's Dr. Shivarama Krishna and Principal of Government Nursing School U.P. Chandrakala were present along with Nursing Superintendent of Cheluvamba Hospital Premavathi, K.R. Hospital's D.B. Rathi, PKTB Sanatorium's Sunandamma, Princess Krishnajammanni Super Speciality Hospital's M.R. Manjunath and Trauma Care Centre's N. Suchitra.

Mysurean emerges Champion at Trump International Golf

Drishti Karumbaya seen with US President Donald Trump, who won Ladies and Men's Championship respectively, at Trump International Golf Club in Palm Beach County, Florida.

Mysuru, Mar. 19- The 24-year-old Mysurean, Drishti Karumbaya, who emerged the Ladies' Golf Champion at Trump International Golf Club in Palm Beach County, Florida, celebrated her victory with the 78-year-old US President Donald Trump, who won the Men's Golf Championship.

"I just won the Golf Club Championship, probably my last, at Trump International Golf Club, in Palm Beach County, Florida," Trump wrote on social media on Sunday afternoon.

Drishti, daughter of Dentist Dr. P.G. Karumbaya (Palachanda Chethan) and Swetha Karumbaya (Kandrathanda), residents of Yadavagiri in Mysuru, is working as a Golf Coach at Palm Beach Atlantic University and is a member of Trump International Golf Club.

An alumnus of St. Joseph's Central School and NPS International in Vijayanagar, Mysuru, she is a double major in Sociology and Human Development from California State University.

Having initiated into golfing when she was 9 years old at JWGC, Mysuru, Drishti had a Career Best Ranking of #5 in the U-13 category in India, was the runner-up in the Wester India Ladies & Junior Girls Championship in 2014, winner of the CGL Indian Gold Union South Zone Event by 11 strokes in 2015 and winner of the Prestige Golfshire IGU South Zone Junior Championship in 2016. She has also won various Championships representing California State University.

At the Trump International Golf Club Championship, Drishti won Stableford on day-1 and Matchplay on day-2 and 3.

Drishti's younger brother Dhruv Bopanna is also a pro-golfer in Mysuru.

Winners of Rink Hockey Tournament

Gadag's Mylarappa Menasagi First Grade College hockey team receiving winners trophy from Sapient Education Trust Secretary Leela Prabhu Ram at the valedictory of Inter-Collegiate Rink Hockey tournament.

Mysuru, Mar. 19- The State-level Inter-Collegiate Rink Hockey Tournament organised by Sapient College, Mysuru, was held at Chamundi Vihar Stadium in city recently. In all, 20 teams from across the State participated.

In the final match, Mylarappa Menasagi First Grade College, Gadag, defeated Cauvery First Grade College, Virajpet (8-7) and walked away with winner's trophy and cash prize of Rs. 20,000. Meanwhile, Cauvery First Grade College received a cash prize of Rs. 10,000. St. Joseph's College of Commerce, Bengaluru, finished in third position.

Sapient Education Trust Secretary Leela Prabhu Ram presented the trophies to the winners and runners-up. Sapient College Dean Dr. Sujatha Bopanna, Principal Dr. K. Ganesh, Physical Education Director K.J. Mohan and University of Mysore Hockey Coach Ashok Y. Tupsundar were present on the occasion.

Curb betting during IPL:
Vedike urges CEN Police

Members of Karnataka Hitharakshana Vedike submitting a memorandum to CEN Police Inspector Nandish Kumar (extreme left).

Mysuru, Mar. 19 (VNS)- With just a couple of days left for the 18th edition of Indian Premier League (IPL), members of Karnataka Hitharakshana Vedike submitted a memorandum to Cyber Economic and Narcotics (CEN) Crime Police Station Inspector Nandish Kumar seeking action to curb cricket betting during IPL.

Vedike President Vinay Kumar expreseed concerns that youth community, for the next couple of months, will be glued to TV and mobile sets to watch the matches which also lures them to indulge in betting.

"There have been numerous instances where students in the name of online classes come together and indulge in cricket betting while watching the match. Apart from students, daily wagers and other youths mortgage their belongings including two-wheelers to earn money for betting," he said regretting that some youths, enable to repay their loans, have either gone missing or committed suicide.

S.N. Rajesh, Gururaj Shetty, Manjunath, Ravichandra, Santosh Kumar, Raju and others were in the delegation.

Team Andolana wins journalists' cricket tournament

Mysuru, Mar. 19 (MTY&VNS)- Team Andolana won the cricket tournament for journalists organised at University of Mysore Hockey Grounds in city yesterday. They defeated Team Vijaya Vani in the finals.

In the finals, batting first Team Vijaya Vani scored 88 runs in the allotted six overs. Rohit, Adarsh and Antony performed well with the bat.

In reply, Team Andolana reached the target of 89 runs with an over to spare. Captain Chiranjeevi and Suresh ensured their team reached the target hitting boundaries.

Prizes to the winners were distributed by senior journalist Amshi Prasanna Kumar. Senior journalists K. Shivakumar, B.S. Prabhurajan, S.T. Ravikumar, Umesh Bhat, Kudli Gururaj, K. Narasimhamurthy, Satyanarayana, K.P. Nagaraj, M.T. Yogesh Kumar and Tournament Organisers-Journalists R. Krishna, Mohan Kumar, Avinash Jainahalli, Bhaskar and Satish Depura were present on the occasion.

Senior journalist K. Shivakumar handing over the winners trophy to Team Andolana.

Reopening of Kyathamaranahalli Masjid

HC reprimands DC, ACP for delay in resolving dispute

Will call peace meeting soon to take decisive action, says DC Lakshmikanth Reddy

Mysuru, Mar. 19 (RK&BCT)- The Karnataka High Court has directed the Mysuru District Administration to convene a peace meeting to take decisive action regarding the decades-long dispute over the Masjid (Aleema Sadiya Education Institution and Masjid-E-Siddique-E-Akbar Trust) located on Kyathamaranahalli Main Road in Gayathripuram Second Stage.

G. Lakshmikanth

While issuing the directive, the Court reprimanded Mysuru Deputy Commissioner (DC) G. Lakshmikanth Reddy and Devaraja Sub-Division Assistant Commissioner (ACP) K. Rajendra for years of delay and inaction over what it termed "a simple matter." Both officials were present in the Court when the strictures were passed.

Court questions inaction

The Court questioned why the DC and ACP had failed to resolve the dispute and had instead maintained a 'status quo' for years. It rejected their claims of potential law and order issues as an excuse for inaction.

A Divisional Bench led by Justice K. Somashekar was hearing a civil contempt petition filed by Munawar Pasha Bin Abdul Wahid, the official representative of the Aleema Sadiya Education Institution and Masjid-E-Siddique-E-Akbar Trust.

The petition accused the State Government of defying earlier orders issued by Justice M. Nagaprasanna, which had directed authorities to act on the Trust's request.

The Petitioner's counsel Mohammed Tahir alleged that the Government was deliberately stalling the resolution by offering excuses, thereby dishonouring the community.

However, Additional Advocate General C.S. Pradeep and Government Counsel Namitha Mahesh refuted the claims, pointing out that the matter has remained unresolved for over a decade. They highlighted that riots linked to the issue had claimed 10 lives and led to 64 serious criminal cases.

Sharp rebuke from Court

The Bench rebuked DC Reddy and ACP Rajendra, questioning their leadership. "If you intend to merely continue the status quo order, then what is the point of your position? If maintaining law and order is a challenge for you in the Chief Minister's own district, how will you handle issues in other districts?" the Court asked.

The Bench further added, "You are the head of a District with full Police support. Use your powers to settle the controversy and ensure order. Your role is not for mere enjoyment."

In response, DC Reddy assured the Court of sincere efforts to resolve the matter. However, Advocate Pradeep warned that a peace meeting could put participants at risk of becoming targets, potentially triggering violence and harming both communities.

Despite the concerns, the Court ordered the DC to conduct the peace meeting immediately and submit a report by the next hearing on April 3.

Speaking to *Star of Mysore* this morning, DC Reddy confirmed that the District Administration and Police would soon call for the meeting. "A bold decision will be taken, and the problem will be solved. We will report the proceedings to the High Court," he said.

DKS to bring sacred Cauvery Theertha for Bengaluru event

Petitioner moves High Court challenging 'Cauvery Aarti' event at Sankey Tank

Madikeri/ Bengaluru, Mar. 19 (PS&BCT)- Deputy Chief Minister and KPCC President D.K. Shivakumar (DKS) will visit Talacauvery, the birthplace of River Cauvery in Kodagu, on Mar. 21. According to Virajpet MLA A.S. Ponnanna, DKS will arrive at the shrine by helicopter at 8 am, accompanied by Ponnanna and Madikeri MLA Dr. Mantar Gowda.

During his visit, DKS will participate in a special puja at Talacauvery Temple as part of the preparations for 'Cauvery Aarti' to be held in Bengaluru.

Following the rituals, the Dy.CM will return to Bengaluru with the sacred Cauvery Theertha. Karnataka Government is planning a grand religious event, Cauvery Aarti, at Sankey Tank in Bengaluru on the evening of Mar. 21. Inspired by Varanasi's famed 'Ganga Aarti,' the ceremony will feature priests from the pilgrimage city in Uttar Pradesh, specially flown in for the occasion.

Issue reaches High Court

Meanwhile, a public interest petitioner has moved the Karnataka High Court, challenging the legality of the Cauvery Aarti event at Sankey Tank. The petitioner claims that the activities planned for the event, including temporary or permanent structures within the lake's buffer zone, violate environmental laws and disturb the local birdlife.

When the matter was mentioned for an urgent hearing on Tuesday, the Division Bench of Chief Justice N.V. Anjaria and Justice M.I. Arun directed the petitioner's Counsel to file an interlocutory application for the Bench to consider the plea.

Advocate G.R. Mohan, representing Geetha Misra, who had filed a 2019 PIL for the protection of water bodies, clarified that they are not opposing the Aarti itself but are objecting to the violations of environmental regulations.

The petitioner contended that erecting even temporary structures in the buffer zone is illegal and that the event, conducted by Bengaluru Water Supply & Sewerage Board (BWSSB), would disrupt nightlife of birds at the lake.

The plea claims that the event breaches Karnataka Tank Conservation and Development Authority Act and seeks a Court order directing the BWSSB and other authorities to halt any activities within the buffer zone.

Hairstyling Workshop

Mysuru, Mar. 19- Association of Women Entrepreneurs of Mysore is organising a three-day Advanced Hairstyling Master Class Workshop from Mar. 20 to 22 at 1241, 2nd Cross, Krishnamurthypuram from 10.30 am to 5 pm.

Rehan Khan, a well-known International Artist from Bengaluru, will conduct the workshop. Interested may register names on Mob: 98809-27359 or 97385-58581.

Mandya DC calls upon students to come out of cell phone addiction

Mysuru, Mar. 19 (BLU&DM)- Mandya Deputy Commissioner (DC) Dr. Kumara has called upon the students to come out of cell phone addiction and develop a habit of reading books for their own future. He was speaking after inaugurating 'Manasa Youth Empowerment-2025,' a 2-day workshop on 'Employability and Empowerment,' organised by the Special Cell for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of University of Mysore (UoM) at Senate Bhavan in Manasagangothri campus here yesterday.

Maintaining that scoring high marks in real life is a bigger achievement than scoring maximum marks in exams, Dr. Kumara said that it is important to note that there are no lessons in real life. However, acquiring knowledge on leading life by reading good books will help in scoring high marks in one's real life, he added.

Mandya Deputy Commissioner Dr. Kumara inaugurating 'Manasa Youth Empowerment-2025' workshop at Senate Bhavan in Manasagangothri yesterday as UoM Vice-Chancellor Prof. N.K. Lokanath and others look on.

"The number of followers in *Twitter, Facebook* and other social media platforms is not important. What is important is the number of books we have read. As such, the students should develop an interest for reading rather than getting engaged in cell phone chats. Those who develop a fondness for reading books can come up in life," he pointed out.

Stressing on the need for limited use of cell phones, he said that human values come above everything in life. Noting that there are articles which vanish with the passage of time, he said that, however, morality and values are traits which never gets erased.

"Though we can purchase article in life by paying money, morality and values are the things we can never purchase with money and we can get them only by doing really good things in life," Dr. Kumara said adding that one should have positive thoughts all the time and shun bad things in life.

UoM Vice-Chancellor Prof. N.K. Lokanath, in his address, said that three great personalities, who studied in UoM, have been conferred with 'Bharat Ratna,' the highest civilian award of the country. Stating that dedication, commitment and experience are key for shaping a career, he said that education plays a key role in coming out of poverty.

"Health is very important in our life and as such, we should tread a good path. Every student should concentrate on acquisition of knowledge and the required skills for coming up in life. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is playing a very major role in our daily lives these days and as such, the students should be eager to reap the positive benefits of AI. Students should follow technology and update their knowledge and learn skills which make them employable. NEP has focussed more on self-study and as such, students should read more books for a better life and a good career," he said.

UoM Registrar M.K. Savitha, Registrar (Evaluation) Prof. N. Nagaraja, Manasa Youth Empowerment Advisory Committee Chairman Prof. D. Anand, Dr. Hemaraj and others were present.

Indian origin astronaut Sunita Williams returns to Earth after 286 days in space

(Continued from page 1)

"Per President Trump's direction, NASA and SpaceX worked diligently to pull the schedule a month earlier. This international crew and our teams embraced the Trump Administration's challenge of an updated, somewhat unique, mission plan to bring our crew home. Through preparation, ingenuity and dedication, we achieve great things together for the benefit of humanity, pushing the boundaries of what is possible from low Earth orbit to the Moon and Mars", it said.

Lift off on Sept. 28, 2024

Hague and Gorbunov lifted off at 1.17 pm Sept. 28, 2024, on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from Space Launch Complex 40 at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida.

The next day, they docked to the forward-facing port of the station's Harmony module. Williams and Wilmore launched aboard Boeing's Starliner spacecraft and United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket on June 5, 2024, from Space Launch Complex 41 as part of the agency's Boeing Crew Flight Test.

The duo arrived at the space station on June 6. In August, NASA announced the uncrewed return of Starliner to Earth and integrated Wilmore and Williams as part of the space station's Expedition 71/72 for a return on Crew-9.

The crew of four undocked at 1.05 am Tuesday to begin the trip home. Williams and Wilmore travelled 121,347,491 miles during their mission, spent 286 days in space, and completed 4,576 orbits around Earth.

Hague and Gorbunov travelled 72,553,920 miles during their mission, spent 171 days in space, and completed 2,736 orbits around Earth. The Crew-9 mission was Gorbunov's first spaceflight. Hague has logged 374 days in space over his two missions, Williams has logged 608 days in space over her 3 flights and Wilmore has logged 464 days in space over his 3 flights.

Science and maintenance activities

Throughout its mission, Crew-9 contributed to a host of science and maintenance activities and technology demonstrations. Sunita Williams conducted two spacewalks, joined by Wilmore for one and Hague for another, removing a radio frequency group antenna assembly from the station's truss, collecting samples from the station's external surface for analysis, installing patches to cover damaged areas of light filters on an X-ray telescope, and more.

She now holds the record for total spacewalking time by a female astronaut, with 62 hours and six minutes outside of the station, and is fourth on the all-time spacewalk duration list. American crew members conducted more than 150 unique scientific experiments and technology demonstrations between them, with over 900 hours of research.

This research included investigations on plant growth and quality, as well as the potential of stem cell technology to address blood diseases, autoimmune disorders, and cancers.

They also tested lighting systems to help astronauts maintain circadian rhythms, loaded the first wooden satellite for deployment, and took samples from the space station's exterior to study whether microorganisms can survive in space.

PM Modi writes to Sunita

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has written a heartfelt letter to NASA astronaut Sunita Williams, inviting her to visit India as two astronauts stuck in orbit for nine months finally departed the International Space Station aboard a SpaceX capsule on Tuesday, kicking off their long-awaited voyage home.

"Even though you are thousands of miles away, you continue to remain close to our hearts. The people of India are praying for your good health and success in your mission," Modi wrote.

"Bonnie Pandya must be keenly awaiting your return and I am sure that Late Deepakbhai's blessings are with you as well. I fondly remember meeting him along with you during my visit to the United States in 2016. After your return, we are looking forward to seeing you in India. It will be a pleasure for India to host one of its most illustrious daughters." Modi wrote.

Longest record stay of 437 days in space

Russian cosmonaut Valery Polyakov holds the world record for the longest single spaceflight in history in 1995, spending 437 days, 17 hours, and 38 minutes in space and orbiting the Earth 7,075 times, according to sources.

Valery Polyakov of Russia

At the age of 46, he launched to the Mir space station aboard Soyuz TM-6 on Aug. 29, 1988 — 16 years after becoming a Soviet cosmonaut in 1972. He was accompanied by fellow Soviet cosmonaut Vladimir Lyakhov and Abdul Ahad Momand, Afghanistan's first astronaut.

For his record-setting second mission, Polyakov was aboard Mir for 14 months, beginning on Jan. 8, 1994. Across 25 experiments and investigations, he studied the physical and cognitive functions of rotating crews from Russia, Kazakhstan, Germany and the US.

On March 22, 1995, Polyakov boarded the Soyuz TM-20 spacecraft, alongside Aleksandr Viktorenko and Yelena Kondakova, to return to Earth.

Traffic congestion by buses

(Continued from page 1)

Cooperation between the transport department staff and the Traffic Police is essential for ensuring smooth traffic flow. Officials from both urban and rural divisions pledged to work together to address the ongoing congestion issues.

Rural Divisional Controller Srinivas stated that instructions have been issued to staff to adhere to traffic regulations. He assured that awareness campaigns will be conducted in the coming days to ensure strict compliance.

Auto parking woes

During the meeting, officials raised concerns over autorickshaws parked haphazardly in front of the Sub-Urban Bus Stand. This disorganised parking is creating inconvenience for both transport buses entering and exiting the stand, as well as for passengers.

The public has also lodged complaints regarding the issue. KSRTC requested strict action to regulate autorickshaw parking in the area, they said.

Urban Divisional Controller H.T. Veeresh reaffirmed the KSRTC's commitment to cooperating with the traffic Police. He noted that drivers have already been instructed to follow traffic rules.

Veeresh announced plans for an upcoming meeting between the KSRTC traffic inspectors and the Traffic Police. The meeting will focus on addressing rule enforcement, resolving issues caused by autorickshaw parking near bus stops, and finding effective solutions.

The meeting was attended by V.V. Puram Traffic Inspector Lava, Siddartha Traffic Inspector Sridhar, Devaraja Traffic Inspector Mamata, Krishnaraja Traffic Station Inspector Mahadevappa, Narasimharaja Traffic Inspector Rekhabai and other senior officials.

AFFIDAVIT

I, **Prathik Anand**, S/o. R.Anand, 26 years, R/at No.924, E & F Block, 3rd Cross, Agni Hamsa Road, Kuvempunagara, Mysuru 570023, do hereby solemnly state on oath that In all my records, PAN Card, Aadhar Card, my name mentioned as **Prathik Anand** but in my Passport my name is wrongly mentioned as **Prathika Anand.** Hence I affirm that both the names belongs to me only, sworn before Notary R.K. Jyothi vide affidavit dated 12.3.2025. Sd/- Prathik Anand

AFFIDAVIT

I, **R. Anand**, S/o. Late. G. Rajanna, 58 years, R/at No.924, E & F Block, 3rd Cross, Agni Hamsa Road, Kuvempunagara, Mysuru- 570023, do hereby solemnly state on oath that in all my records, PAN Card, Aadhar Card, my name mentioned as **R. Anand** but in my Passport my name is wrongly mentioned as **R.Ananda.** Hence I affirm that both the names belongs to me only, sworn before Notary R.K. Jyothi vide affidavit dated 11.3.2025. **Sd/- R. Anand**

PAPER PUBLICATION

Under instructions from our client, Sri. GANESH S POOJARI, aged about 30 years, son of Late. Sanjeev S. Poojari, resident of # 57/1, "Sahana Nilaya", 5th Cross Road, Gayathripuram, Bengaluru-560021, we are causing this public notice:

Our client has filed a Commercial suit in Com. O.S.No.237/2023 on the file of the Hon'ble Principal District Judge and Designated Commercial Court, at Mysuru seeking for the recovery of the amount against one B. PRASHANTH, aged about 45 years, son of Late. Basavaraj. M., residing at # 2902, Kantharaj Urs Road, Saraswathipuram, Mysuru 570 009. Said B.Prashanth has got 1/4 right over property more appropriately described in the schedule below; Now, the Hon'ble Court in the said case has directed said B.Prashanth to furnish security for Rs.3,75,00,000/- within 2 months from 10-08-2023 and place the same for disposal of the court when required. And accordingly a conditional order of attachment of 1/4 right of said B.Prashanth over the said property is being ordered. The said order of attachment still subsists.

This is to inform the public in large that if anybody indulges in buying any right over the schedule property from said B.Prashanth, the same will be subject to the above said liability.

'A' SCHEDULE : All that piece and parcel of the Commercial Property bearing Khata No.2902 CH 80 situated at Kantharaj Urs Road, Saraswathipuram, Mysuru-570009, measuring 21525 Sq. Ft. building constructed on the above site bounded on: East by : Property of B schedule (belongs to Defendant), West by : Kantharaje Urs Road (Saraswathipuram 1st Main Road), North by : remaining property of defendant, South by :Property of TTL college.

'B' SCHEDULE : All that piece and parcel of residential vacant site property bearing Khata No.2902 CH 80/1 situated at Kantharaj Urs Road, Saraswathipuram, Mysuru-570009, measuring 99910 Sq. Ft. bounded on: East by : Pampapathi Road, West by :Petrol Bunk, Kantharaj Urs Road, Saraswathpuram 1st Main Road, North by : Muslim Hostel, South by : Property of TTL college and Petrol Bunk.

Sd/- O. Shama Bhat, B.A.LL.B., Reg. No. Kar 417/77

Sd/- O. Sathisha, B.Sc. LL.b., Reg. No: Kar 721/89 , Advocates, No. 20/c, 2nd Floor, Near Airlines Hotel, Jayalakshmi Vilas Road, Chamarajapuram, Mysuru-570004. Phone : 0821-2429851

Date: 13-03-2025

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VENUE: SPROUTBOX,RS01, 4TH FLOOR, MALL OF MYSORE, MG ROAD,INDIRA NAGAR EXTENSION,NAZARABAD MOHALLA,MYSORE – 570010

Interested candidates can send their resume to:
hr@bonifon.in or WhatsApp +91 84315 48985
Deadline: On or before 26/03/2025

NEWS BRIEFS

Vontikoppal Panchanga distribution tomorrow

H.V. Rajeev Sneha Balaga, Mysuru, will be distributing the famed Vontikoppal Panchanga at Sri Raghavendraswamy Sannidhi in Uttaradi Mutt premises, Agrahara, at 11 am tomorrow (Mar. 20). Uttaradi Mutt Manager Sri Pandit Aniruddhachar Pandurangi will be the chief guest on the occasion.

Admission to 5th and 8th standards

Social Welfare Department has invited applications from meritorious SC Community students for admission to fifth standard (Kannada medium) and 8th standard (Both Kannada and English medium) at Janaseva Vidyakendra, Magadi Road, Bengaluru. The admission will be based on a written test. For details, contact Mob: 92412-16119 or Ph: 080-64548640.

Mass Marriage

A mass marriage has been organised at Suttur in Nanjangud taluk on Apr. 18. Interested eligible brides and bridegrooms can register 8 days before the event with the Administrative Officer, JSS Educational Institutions, Suttur or contact Ph: 08221-232217 or Mob: 97413-42222.

Medical camp

A medical camp on Haemorrhoids/ Piles/ Arshas, which is underway at JSS Ayurveda Hospital, Alanahalli, Mysuru, since Mar. 18, will be held till Mar. 25. Haemorrhoids is a clinical condition presenting with dilated tortuousness of Haemorrhoidal veins with pain, itching, bleeding, constipation, mass in anal region. Patients can avail the benefit of the camp. For details contact Ph: 0821-2548231 or Mob: 97384-60501.

Ph.D awardees

M.P. Boranna has been awarded Ph.D in Physics by the University of Mysore (UoM), Mysuru, for his thesis 'Positron Lifetime Study of Polymer Nanocomposites for Nonlinear Optical Applications' submitted under the guidance of Dr. H.B. Ravikumar.

K.G. Sharadadevi has been awarded Ph.D in Commerce by the Karnataka State Open University (KSOU), Mysuru, for her thesis 'Value Investing in Manufacturing Sector Stocks in India: A Study' submitted under the guidance of Dr. R. Chaya.

Unable to find matrimonial alliance, youth ends life

27-year-old Masana Shetty of Madhuvanahalli in Kollegal taluk commits suicide by holding on to a high-tension electric line; weeping mother watches the whole incident, along with villagers

Kollegal, Mar. 19 (Agencies)- A youth, dejected over not getting married, ended his life by clinging on to a high-tension electric line at Madhuvanahalli in Kollegal taluk yesterday.

Siddarajamma

The hapless mother of the youth, made every bid to dissuade her son, along with the fellow villagers, but the latter chose to end his life, leaving his family members in a pall of gloom.

Masana Shetty (27), son of Siddarajamma of Madhuvanahalli, is the deceased youth. No sooner he held the electric cable in his hand, he suffered electrocution and charged to death, with his body hanging from the electric line, much to the dismay of the onlookers.

A drunkard, Shetty was pestering his mother to arrange a matrimonial alliance for him. His mother had advised him to quit the habit of drinking to find a suitable alliance, as the condition now was not favourable, with the things becoming difficult even for those with good character to find a suitable alliance.

Paying heed to his mother's advice, Shetty had quit drinking for the past several months, but had something else in store for him, as it became increasingly difficult to find a suitable alliance. His mother had visited several villages to find a suitable bride, but the family members of the latter were reluctant to pursue the alliance, for Shetty not being self-sufficient. He had a tiny house, but didn't have any land of his own, the two reasons due to which the marriage talks had failed.

Since then, Shetty had gone into depression, cursing his own fate for not finding a suitable alliance, despite changing his behaviour. Moreover, he was worried over living in dire straits. His mother was deeply worried about his condition.

Yesterday morning, Shetty's mother had brought breakfast from a hotel. Shetty, who ate the breakfast went out, not to return even after several hours.

His mother who grew anxious, went in search of him, when a villager told her about Shetty climbing the pole connected to a high-tension power line.

His mother, who rushed to the spot, advised her son to get down, explaining what would happen to her, if he takes the extreme step. However, he remained unheeded and held on to the wire, only to be charred to death instantly, following the electric shock.

Before that, he held both his hands aloft, bidding a good bye to his weeping mother and villagers, who were watching the whole drama with a bated breath.

Kollegal Rural Police, who visited the spot, made arrangements to remove the body. The body was handed over to the family after post-mortem.

A case has been registered and investigation is on.

Two from Mysuru stabbed with screw driver in Srirangapatna

Srirangapatna, Mar. 19 (KS)- Two persons from Mysuru, who were sipping tea at the canteen near the Court, sustained injuries when a man allegedly stabbed with a screw driver on Monday.

While the accused has been identified as 40-year-old Nanjappa, a resident of Sasalu village in K.R. Pet taluk, the injured are Kumaraswamy of Mysuru and B.R. Umesh of Nanjangud in Mysuru district. The injured have been admitted to a private hospital in Mysuru.

According to the complaint lodged by Yatish, a resident of N.R. Mohalla in Mysuru, he and his family members had come to the Court for a case and after completing the Court works, he (Yatish), his relative Kumaraswamy and his friend Umesh went to the canteen near the Court and were sipping tea, when Nanjappa began to stab them continuously with a screw driver over an old grudge, resulting in Kumaraswamy and Umesh sustaining multiple wounds.

The complaint further states that while Nanjappa was on a stabbing spree, Nanjappa's father-in-law Rajendra, mother-in-law Manjula and his wife Parvathi began to abuse them using foul language besides issuing life threats.

Yatish has urged the Police to initiate legal action against the accused.

The Police, who have arrested the accused, visited the crime spot yesterday morning and conducted spot mahazar.

Probe ordered on construction of Sa.Ra. Convention Hall

Mysuru, Mar. 19- The State Government has ordered a fresh probe into the construction of Sa.Ra. Convention Hall, owned by the family of former Minister and JD(S) State Unit Working President Sa.Ra. Mahesh.

Under Secretary to Urban Development Department K. Latha has written a letter in this regard to the Commissioner of Development Authority and Urban and Rural Planning Commissionerate on Mar. 10.

RTI activist Gangaraju, in his complaint to the Chief Minister on Feb. 9, has stated that the owners had illegally constructed the convention hall in 2 acre and 15 gunta land in Dattagalli Survey No. 130/3 for which the officials had extended their co-operation, besides urging for a thorough probe.

Complaint: In his complaint, Gangaraju has alleged that S.R. Mahesh's wife Anitha Mahesh had created fake documents and constructed the commercial establishment causing loss to the Government and the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA).

He has further stated that rules were violated during the construction and MUDA property has been encroached upon for which senior officials of the District Administration and MUDA had extended their co-operation. A probe into the encroachment should be conducted and criminal cases be registered against the Government Officials, he urged.

Obituary

T.K. Rajanna

Mysuru, Mar. 19- T.K. Rajanna (67), a retired Joint Director of Food and Civil Supplies Department, passed away here in the early hours of this morning.

A resident of Vijayanagar 3rd Stage in city, he is survived by his wife, a son, a daughter and a host of relatives and friends.

He was a co-brother of Animal Husbandry Minister K. Venkatesh.

Last rites were performed at his farmland at his native village Gopalpura near Jayapura in Mysuru taluk this evening.

H.V. Govindaraju

H.V. Govindaraju (76), retired Office Manager at Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Plant, Bhadravathi and a resident of KHB Colony in Kuvempunagar, passed away yesterday in city.

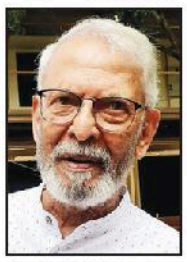
He leaves behind his wife Sunanda Govindaraju, son Dr. Srichand, daughter-in-law Deepika Srichand, three sisters, one brother and a host of relatives and friends. Last rites were held at K.G. Koppal Burial Grounds yesterday evening.

Kumbh Mela

Beyond the Holy Dip - 2

The picture is of a dog sitting at a distance on the banks of River Ganga during the Maha Kumbh Mela at Prayagraj, UP, wondering at the unfolding drama of humanity!

By Ashvini Ranjan



Ashvini Ranjan

A day after my article titled ***'Kumbh Mela: Beyond the Holy Dip'*** appeared in *SOM* dated February 27, 2025, I received a surprising phone call. A friend, with a hint of concern, asked if I had managed to find my wife at Prayagraj (UP). I chuckled, thinking it was a joke. But when another caller posed a similar question, I realised my story-telling had led to unintended suspense.

During our visit to Kumbh Mela, my wife and I had to travel pillion a part of the distance, on two separate motorbikes to navigate the chaotic streets leading to our tent city — the place of our lodging. In the swirling sea of humanity, I lost sight of her.

However, my faith in her navigation skills using the Google maps — and the elaborate Police arrangements for the lost and found 'spouses'— kept me at ease. I had simply forgotten to mention in my article that she had reached safely. In fact ahead of me.

Readers, ever hungry for a closure, assumed a dramatic sequel was in the offing. Alas, dear friends, she was neither lost nor did she subject the Police to test their skills of finding and restoring lost spouses !

If you think Kumbh Mela is all about *Punya, Bhakti* and *Moksha*, think again. It is also an economic juggernaut where morality and commerce coexist in an uneasy alliance. After the Mela concluded on February 26, the Uttar Pradesh Revenue Ministry revealed an astonishing statistic: the festival had generated a revenue of Rs. 3 lakh crore.

Having spent Rs. 5,000 to travel a mere 15 km, I felt like an unwilling patron of this divine marketplace. Airlines doubled their fares, rickshaw pullers charged astronomical sums and even a humble roadside *chaiwallah* seemed to have discovered the secrets of dynamic pricing. Faith, as I learned, is not just an equaliser but a lucrative business model.

Further more, if you were under the impression that water from the sacred river Ganga belonged to all mankind, you couldn't be more wrong. At the Mela, Ganga *jal* had become a commodity for sale. Streetside vendors did brisk business selling the holy water in plastic containers as takeaways. Not to be left out, **Amazon online shopping too was offering Ganga *jal* at Rs. 550 per litre, claiming it as 'pure' and bottled at the place of confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna and the mythical Saraswati.** I was told that water tankers were transporting the holy nectar to far away Delhi for those who wished to bathe in divinity without braving the crowds.

By the time we arrived at the Kumbh Mela on the 19th February, the real ascetics, the sadhus from the Himalayas, had long departed. In their place, a legion of ash-smeared impostors flourished, bestowing blessings upon gullible devotees for a small but non-negotiable fee. The sheer ingenuity on display could make a corporate strategist blush.

Navigating the Kumbh Mela was an experience unto itself. The term 'traffic jam' seemed inadequate for the situation. Walking was an extreme sport, requiring agility and courage, especially when dodging VIP convoys. **Ministers, Judges and bureaucrats descended with sirens, flashing lights and, in some cases, escorted by horse mounted Police.** Apparently, the holy dip offered them a one-time-only opportunity for spiritual and moral cleansing — perhaps even absolution from long- pending corruption charges!

Despite the chaos, there was something profoundly divine about the Mela. Official figures stated that 66 crore people —nearly 45% of India's population — participated in the festival. Representatives from over 3,000 castes of the Hindu religion and 25,000 sub-castes stood shoulder to shoulder, bound by a larger common belief. Personal space was beyond possible. **If faith could momentarily erase centuries of social divisions, maybe there was some magic in the waters of Ganga after all.**

As I stood at the river's edge, watching the waves of faith ripple through the multitudes, I felt the undeniable power of collective devotion. Even as a skeptic, I could not ignore the energy that surged through the air, uniting millions in a shared spiritual experience. For a fleeting moment, I wondered if I too should take the sacred dip — but that thought soon faded.

My true moment of awakening at the Kumbh was not in the waters of the Ganga but in a simple act of kindness. Amidst the sea of pilgrims seeking divine blessings, an elderly woman, weak and parched, pleaded for water. Instinctively, I offered her my bottle, steadying her trembling hands as she drank. When she was done, she looked into my eyes with profound gratitude and placed her hand on my head in silent blessing. **At that moment, I felt something far greater than ritualistic purification — I felt the essence of true spirituality.**

It was then that I realised: Divinity is not just found in sacred waters or elaborate rituals but in compassion, in service and in the touch of a grateful soul. If there is a path to God, it surely begins with serving humanity.

[Concluded]

Farooqia students secure ranks in Pharm D, B. Pharm exams

Dr. Ruqsar Banu

Mysuru, Mar. 19 (KS)- The students of Farooqia College of Pharmacy, Mysuru, have secured ranks in Pharm D (Post Baccalaureate) and B. Pharm examinations conducted by Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS), Bengaluru.

The top rank scorers in B. Pharm are Syeda Efthesha (3 ranks), Noor Muskhan (2 ranks), M.N. Suhana (2 ranks), K.P. Hemanth Prasad (2 ranks), Syeda Suha Sadaf (2 ranks) and Hajeerabanu (2 ranks).

Touhid Khan, Yashwanth, V. Santhra, Nurain, Latha Shiva, C. Poojashree, S. Chaitra, Roopashree and Shana Sulaiman bagged one rank each.

The students have also secured three ranks in Karnataka State at the Annual Pharm D and Pharm D (PB) examination conducted by RGUHS.

Dr. Ruqsar Banu has secured first rank in overall Pharm D (PB), Dr. Ruthushree has secured seventh Rank in 2nd year Pharm D and Dr. Mohamadi Shayma Ayub has secured eighth rank in 4th year Pharm D.

Taj Mohammed Khan, Hon. Secretary of Rifa-hul Muslimeen Educational Trust (RMET), which runs the College and Principal Dr. Nisar Ahmed have congratulated the students for their achievements.

Ex-Servicemen rally at Madikeri

Madikeri, Mar. 19- In order to facilitate contact and interaction between Ex-Servicemen, an outreach rally of Ex-Servicemen has been organised at Madikeri on Mar. 24.

The rally will take place at Crystal Hall, Hill Dale Resort, Opposite Petrol Bunk, Madikeri at 9 am on Mar. 24.

Ex-Servicemen and their family members can take part in this outreach rally, in which GOC-in-C of Southern Command and other senior Army Officers will take part.

For more details, contact *WhatsApp* 63607-42654 or e-mail: *oicesmbangalore@yahoo.co.in.*

Science model-making contest

and Expo at St. Philomena's College

Students demonstrating their models and experiments.

Mysuru, Mar. 19- The UG and PG Department of Physics, in collaboration with the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of St. Philomena's College, Bannimantap, Mysuru, organised a Science model-making competition and exhibition, attracting enthusiastic participation of students from various institutions.

The event was coordinated by Dr. C.N. Sachin (PG Department of Physics) and saw the presentation of over 40 innovative scientific models prepared by students from St. Philomena's College and other affiliated Colleges under the University of Mysore.

The exhibition witnessed an overwhelming response, with more than 500 students visiting and exploring the creative exhibits. Apart from Physics, the exhibition also featured active participation from other Departments, including Criminology and Forensic Science, Chemistry, Botany, Zoology, Biochemistry and more.

One of the highlights was the demonstration of the chemistry behind bread-making, where students showcased their expertise in food chemistry, blending science with culinary art.

The exhibition provided a platform for students to demonstrate their scientific temperament, creativity and innovation, fostering interdisciplinary learning and collaboration.

WORD OF THE DAY

Emollient

Pronunciation: ih-MAHL-yunt (noun).
Meaning: An emollient is something, such as a lotion, that softens or soothes.
Origin: The noun emollient is used most often in reference to a substance — such as an oil, cream, lotion, butter, or balm — used to treat someone's skin or hair. Perhaps unsurprisingly, it traces back to a Latin word, the verb emollire, meaning "to soften or soothe." Emollire, in turn, formed in part from the adjective mollis, meaning "soft." (Another descendant of mollis is mollify, which means "to make softer in temper or disposition.") Emollient first appeared in print in English in the early 1600s as an adjective with the meaning "making soft or supple," describing things such as herbs, medicines, and poultices; the noun arrived on the scene soon after.
Example: "Jojoba oil and squalene are plant oils & emollients, which means they moisturize & soften skin by reinforcing its natural barrier and forming a layer that prevents moisture from escaping; beef tallow is considered an emollient, too." —Katie Mogg, The New York Times, 18 July 2024.

THE ODD WORD

Eclat

Publicity; dazzling effect; brilliance; applause.

PHRASE OF THE DAY

To Go with the Flow

Meaning: To do or accept what other people are doing because it is the easiest thing to do: Just relax and go with the flow!
Origin: If a person is said to go with the flow, it means they are not resolute in their position and prepared to side with majority. The term dates back to late 1900s. It was widely used in the US and alludes to the ebb and flow of tides. It is thought to have gained popularity because of its appealing rhyme.
Example: She rarely disagrees with her team mates. She just goes with the flow.

QUOTE BOX

Life is not measured by time. It is measured by moments.

—Armin Houman

RIDDLE THIS

Solve the rebus:

Answer: A slice of life.

CROSS WORD

ACROSS:

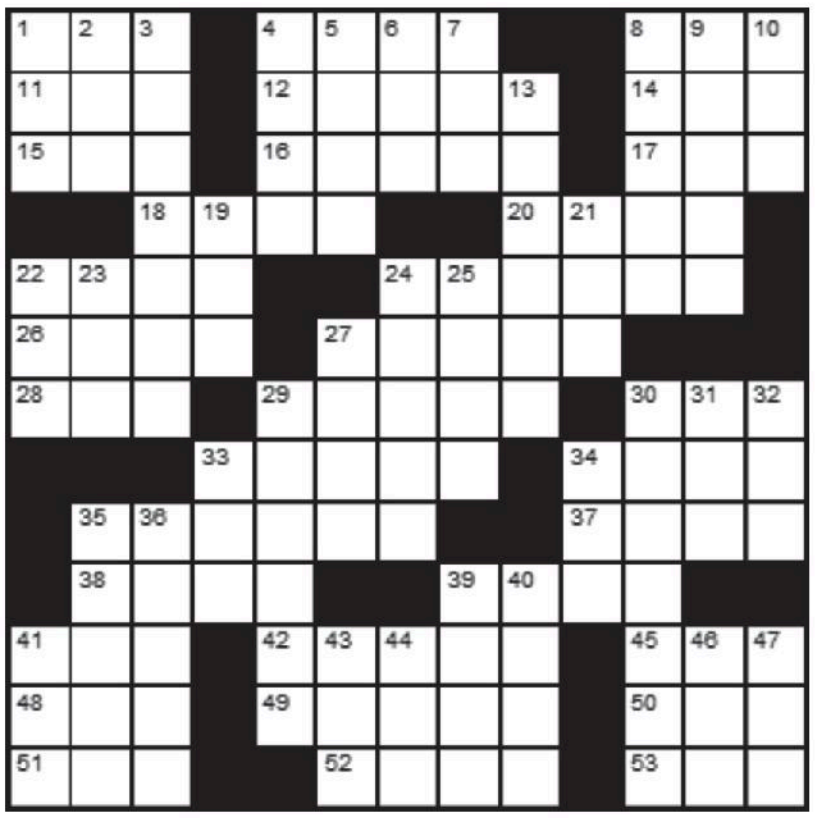
1 Limited, in short
4 Outdoor shelter
8 Passing vogue or fashion
11 Seine's contents
12 Hand joint
14 Large Scale Integration, abbr.
15 Fitting
16 Eskimo's hut
17 Designer's monogram
18 "Othello" villain
20 Yearn
22 Present
24 Intense, passionate or zealous
26 Make indistinct
27 Earlier in time
28 ___ Mineo : New York born actor?
29 Regretting
30 Request For Inf.
33 Lokmanya __famous patriot?
34 South African of Dutch descent
35 Courtroom excuses
37 Drain slowly
38 Gross and untidy person
39 Piano parts
41 Mineral spring
42 Wonderwall rockers
45 Aviv leader
48 ___ at : direct a gun at?
49 Paper money?
50 A little work
51 Wood sorrel
52 Old musical instrument
53 "Are" anagram for a foreign boy's name?

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

D	I	A			A	P	P		G	L	E	E
O	I	L			R	A	H		R	E	A	L
H	I	L	A	R	I	T	Y		E	A	S	Y
		A	D	O	L	E	S	C	E	N	T	
E	N	T	R	Y		L	I	O	N			
O	A	S					C	R	E	A	M	
S	P	E	A	K	S		S	E	R	B	I	A
	S	A	T	A	N				H	E	W	
			A	L	A	S		A	T	O	N	E
	D	I	L	I	P	K	U	M	A	R		
J	U	N	O		P	A	S	T	U	R	E	S
A	D	O	S		E	T	S			E	N	O
Y	E	N	S		D	E	R			D	A	B

DOWN

1 Meadow or grassland
2 Strike lightly
3 Civic-minded
4 Small branch
5 Therefore in Latin
6 Naught or nothing
7 Tech. Std. Order
8 Ex-Hollywood star Errol ____
9 Useful quality
10 Bollywood's ___ Bhi Tera Hum Bhi Tere
13 Victor or master? (3,3)
19 Air Transp. Radio
21 Comparative ending?
22 Pygmalion, playwright's monogram
23 ___ Arun : playback singer ?
24 Operatic airs
25 Skating surface
27 Hungarian sheepdog
29 Long narrow strip
30 Adult male chicken
31 Turkish cap
32 Dander or anger
33 Uncle in Spain
34 Male child
35 Clear jelly preservative
36 S. American animal
39 Dye vat - "rike" anagram?
40 Being in Latin
41 S. American city __ Paolo
43 America Online, abbr.
44 Pig's dwelling
46 Period or age
47 Large, abbr.



SUDOKU

		4	8					
	9					3		5
1		6		9	7			
					2	6		
	7	9				4	8	
		3	4					
			3	8		7		6
4		1					9	
					9	8		

Answer to previous puzzle

4	9	8	5	2	6	3	1	7
5	3	1	9	4	7	6	2	8
6	2	7	1	8	3	9	5	4
7	5	9	2	1	4	8	3	6
1	4	3	6	7	8	5	9	2
2	8	6	3	9	5	7	4	1
9	6	4	8	3	1	2	7	5
3	7	5	4	6	2	1	8	9
8	1	2	7	5	9	4	6	3

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Concept is Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

CRYPTOQUIP

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

IWKL KDKZQYWOLH'M FSTOLH QSCZ IXQ, QSC'ZK

OL YWK IZSLH EXLK XLB HSOLH YWK IZSLH IXQ.

TODAY'S CLUE: H EQUALS G

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: The problem with the gene pool is that there is no lifeguard.

MOVIE LOVERS

NOW SHOWING - SINGLE SCREEN THEATRES

- **Gayathri Theatre** **Ph: 2443568**
  Appu (K) - 4 Shows
- **Mahadeshwara Theatre** **Mob: 99008-20093**
  Sankranthiki Vasthunam (Te) - 4 Shows
- **Woodlands Theatre** **Ph: 2422871**
  Bheema (K) - 4 Shows
- **Padma Theatre** **Ph: 2521923**
  Gagana Kusuma (K) - 2 Shows; *Robber (Ta)* - 2 Shows
- **Thibbadevi Theatre** **Ph: 2452958**
  Duster (Ta) - 4 Shows
- **Prabha Theatre** **Mob: 98454-14691**
  Bhagiratha (K) - 4 Shows
- **Sangam Theatre** **Ph: 2520494**
  Court: State vs A Nobody (Te) - 4 Shows
- **Lido Theatre** **Ph: 2420885**
  Daaku Maharaaj (Te) - 4 Shows
- **Rajkamal Theatre** **Ph: 2423554**
  Sweetheart (Ta) - 4 Shows
- **Balaji Theatre** **Mob: 98863-25207**
  Badass Ravikumar (H) - 3 Shows

DRC CINEMAS — Ph: 4240422, 4241800

The Diplomat (H)	(S-1)	10 am, 12.50 pm, 7 pm
	(S-3)	10.25 pm
Interstellar (E)	(S-1)	3.40 pm, 9.50 pm
Novocaine (E)	(S-2)	10.30 am, 10.20 pm
Dragon (Ta)	(S-2)	1 pm
	(S-3)	10 am
Court: State vs A Nobody (Te)	(S-2)	4.10 pm
Dilruba (Te)	(S-2)	7.15 pm
Sweetheart (Ta)	(S-3)	1.05 pm
Ah (K)	(S-3)	4.10 pm
Chhaava (H)	(S-3)	7.10 pm
Appu (K)	(S-4)	10.40 am, 1.30 pm, 4.15 pm
		7 pm, 9.45 pm

MYSURU VISION CINEMAS — Ph: 0821 - 2973519

Forest (K)	(S-1)	1.30 pm
Perusu (Ta)	(S-1)	6.30 pm
Sweetheart (Ta)	(S-1)	9.15 pm
Appu (K)	(S-2)	10.30 am, 1.15 pm
		4.15 pm, 7 pm
	(S-3)	9.15 pm
Dilruba (Te)	(S-2)	9.25 pm
Chhaava (H)	(S-3)	6.10 pm

PVR CINEMAS — 4K Dolby 7.1

Nexus Centre City Mall, 2nd Floor. Ph: 0821-230 0402

The Diplomat (H)	:	9.55 am, 1.10 pm, 3.50 pm, 7.05 pm, 10 pm
Appu (K)	:	10.10 am, 12.50 pm, 4.05 pm, 6.45 pm
Court: State vs A Nobody (Te)	:	10.10 am, 6.55 pm
Fanaa (H)	:	11 am
Novocaine (E)	:	11 am, 4.40 pm
Interstellar (E)	:	11.05 am, 5.50 pm, 9.15 pm
Perusu (Ta)	:	1.15 pm
Chhaava (H)	:	1.20 pm, 7 pm
Dune: Part Two (E)	:	2.30 pm, 10.30 pm
Taare Zameen Par (H)	:	3 pm
Dilruba (Te)	:	3.50 pm
Talaash (H)	:	7 pm
Inn Galiyon Mein (H)	:	9.45 pm
Sweetheart (Ta)	:	10 pm
Dragon (Ta)	:	10.20 pm

1st Floor, Garuda Mall. Mob: 88009 00009

Appu (K)	:	9.30 am, 12.30 pm, 3.30 pm
		6.30 pm, 9.30 pm
Court: State vs A Nobody (Te)	:	10.05 am, 1.20 pm
Sweetheart (Ta)	:	10.20 am, 4.25 pm
The Diplomat (H)	:	10.50 am, 1.45 pm, 4.40 pm
		7.35 pm, 10.30 pm
Murmur (Ta)	:	1.10 pm
Forest (K)	:	4.05 pm
Dragon (Ta)	:	7.05 pm
Perusu (Ta)	:	7.25 pm
Dilruba (Te)	:	10 pm
Chhaava (H)	:	10.15 pm

INOX LIVE the MOVIE

Mall of Mysore - Mob: 78299-99465

Chhaava (H)	:	9.55 am, 4.10 pm, 7 pm, 10.30 pm
Appu (K)	:	10 am, 1 pm, 4 pm, 7.30 pm, 10.20 pm
The Diplomat (H)	:	10.15 am, 1.15 pm, 4.10 pm, 7.05 pm
Novocaine (E)	:	11.10 am, 7.05 pm
Sweetheart (Ta)	:	1.10 pm
Perusu (Ta)	:	1.35 pm
Mickey 17 (E)	:	4.10 pm
Court: State vs A Nobody (Te)	:	9.30 pm
Dilruba (Te)	:	10 pm

INOX Centro Mysore - Ph: 0821-4283555

Chhaava (H)	:	9.55 am, 7.10 pm, 10.30 pm
The Diplomat (H)	:	10.05 am, 1 pm, 4.15 pm, 6.55 pm
Appu (K)	:	10.35 am, 1.15 pm, 3.55 pm
		7.10 pm, 9.50 pm
Perusu (Ta)	:	10.50 am, 4.35 pm
Ah! (K)	:	1.25 pm
Sweetheart (Ta)	:	1.35 pm, 10.10 pm
Court: State vs A Nobody (Te)	:	4.10 pm, 10.20 pm
Dilruba (Te)	:	7.15 pm

NOTE: Movie timings published here are subject to sudden change by the theatre managements. The films are also liable to be changed in multiplexes if there is no minimum audience of 15.

St. Joseph's First Grade College wins Overall Championship in IT Events

Mysuru, Mar. 19- St. Joseph's First Grade College, Jayalakshmipuram, Mysuru, has secured the Overall Championship in IT Events at the State-Level Fest organised by Seshadripuram Degree College, Mysuru.

The students demonstrated their outstanding skills across various competitions, bringing laurels to the institution. The winners of the various events are as follows:

Human Resource Event: Vijay and Junaid - 2nd prize.

UI/UX Design: Poornaprakya and Ephraim - 2nd prize.

Thinkinfy Event: Tanisha and Melvita Samson - 2nd prize.

Coding Event: Adrin D. Almeida and P. Karthik (2nd BCA) - 1st prize.

Treasure Hunt: Reema Parveen, K.K. Shreya, M.P. Yashika & Durgabhavani - 1st prize.

EVENTS TODAY (MARCH 19)

- **University of Mysore (UoM):** Valedictory of Manasa Youth Empowerment-2025, workshop on employability and empowerment, Mangaluru Internal Security Division (ISD) SP Dr. A.N. Prakash Gowda chief guest, UoM Registrar M.K. Savitha presides, Manasa Youth Empowerment-2025 Advisory Committee Chairman Prof. D. Anand will be present, Senate Bhavan, Manasagangothri, **4 pm.**
- **Sri Avani Sringeri Jagadguru Shankaracharya Mahasamsthanam 'Sri Sharada Peetham,' Mysuru Branch:** Cultural programme - Devotional Songs by Dr. Yamuna Nagendra, Chaithra Mahesh, Suparna Sudhakar and Sandhya Jayasimha, disciples of Vidu. Rekha Venkatesh, Sharada Kala Kendra, Kuvempunagar, Mysuru, Vid. Ganesh Bhat on keyboard and Vid. Ramesh Dhannur on tabla, Sri Sharada Peetham, Vidyaranyapuram, **6 pm.**
- **Rotary Mysore Midtown and Shrisainik Foundation:** Conferring of Rotary Sainik Desh Rathna Award on Captain M.V. Pranjal, award instituted by Rtn. K.V. Bhaskar and Ann. G. Madhura of Shrisainik Foundation, Rotary Mysore Midtown President Rtn. S. Kumarswamy and Hon. Secretary Rtn. Elizar Milton will be present, Rotary Centre, JLB Road, **6.30 pm.**

EVENTS TOMORROW (MARCH 20)

- **Chamundi Hill:** Brahma Rathotsava of Sri Mahabaleshwara Swamy, atop Chamundi Hill, **7.55 am and 8.25 am.**
- **PG Department of Studies and Research in Journalism and Mass Communication, St. Philomena's College:** Inauguration of International Conference on 'Re-imaging Communication in the 21st Century: Sociological, Political and Economic Perspectives,' Dr. D.V. Guruprasad, former DGP, chief guest, Prof. Srinivas Melkote, Professor Emeritus, Bowling Green State University, USA, delivers keynote address, Most Rev. Dr. Bernard Moras, Apostolic Administrator, President-MDES, presides, Rev. Dr. Lourdu Prasad Joseph, Rector and Dr. Ravi J.D. Saldanha, Principal, will be present, College premises, Bannimantap, **10 am.**
- **Government First Grade College for Women, Vijayanagar (GFGCWV), Mysuru, Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) and Karnataka State Archives, Divisional Archives Office, Mysuru:** Two-day Multi-Disciplinary National Conference on 'Empowering Women in Princely Mysore: Historical Insights, Social Change and Future Prospects,' MLA G.T. Devegowda, President of College Development Council (CDC), inaugurates, Prof. Jamuna, retd. Professor of History, Bangalore University, delivers the keynote address, Dr. Gavisiddaiah, Director, Karnataka State Archives, Bengaluru, Dr. B. Chandrashekara, Joint Director, RJDCE, Mysuru, Prof. Hirisawe Srinivas Rao Prabhakar, retd. Professor of History, JNU, New Delhi and Prof. N.V. Ushadevi, Senior Professor of History, Bangalore University, chief guests, G.R. Nataraja, Principal, GFGCWV, Mysuru, presides, K.C. Bhadragiriyaiah, IQAC Coordinator, GFGCWV, Mysuru, will be present, College Auditorium, **10.30 am.**
- **Christ College, Mysuru:** Valedictory of National Conference on 'AI Revolution: Innovations, Insights and Impact,' Dr. Anil Joseph Pinto, Registrar, Christ University, Bengaluru, chief guest, Rev. Fr. Jinto Jose, Principal, Christ College, Mysuru, presides, College auditorium, **2 pm.**
- **Adhivaktha Parishad, Karnataka South, Mysore Unit and Negilayogi Samaja Seva Trust:** International Women's Day celebrations, felicitation to women achievers, Adhivaktha Parishad Mysuru Unit President V. Sharada presides, Special Lecture by retd. Senior Officer in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (GoI) Meena, retd. Principal District and Sessions Judge S.H. Pushpanjalidevi chief guest, Negilayogi Seva Bhavan, opp. New Law Courts Complex, Jayanagar, **4 pm.**

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